THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) As reported by the Consulate General of India (CGI), Dubai, a large number of workers in Boorj Dubai project stopped work on 22.03.2005. A team from the CGI along with officials from Permanent Committee of Labour Affairs of the Dubai Government visited the work site. The CGI officials separately met a large number of Indian workers working for the project. The complaints regarding loss of overtime pay owing to delay in commuting to and from the work site and introduction of an inadequate number of punching machines to verify attendance was taken up with the company management, who assured that these will be addressed expeditiously. The workers have, in the meanwhile, resumed work on the project.

Harassment of Indian Women Abroad

2776. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Government are aware of the increasing number of complaints of 111 treatment and harassment meted out to Indian women living abroad;

if so, the nature of ill-treatment and harassment which are being meted out;

whether Government have taken any action to check such incidents in future; and

(d) the countries where Indian women are facing ill-treatment and harassment?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) There have been a few complaints of harassment/ ill-treatment ranging from non-payment of wages to physical harassment of Indian women abroad particularly those working as housemaids in Gulf countries. Keeping this in view, the Government has already banned grant of emigration clearance to women below the age of thirty years if they are seeking employment as housemaids/domestic workers in any foreign country including those going to Gulf countries.